

honor with gold. It is, without disguise, a gold standard party. It has had enough of bogus schemes to make money out of all sorts of paper resting on all sorts of security. It has had enough of attempts to conciliate in the first place, and ought not to be conciliated in the second. When McKinley a sentiment that can never be conciliated in the first place, and ought not to be conciliated in the second. When McKinley says he is 'for the largest use of silver in the currency of the country,' he says he is for a debased currency and for another period of silver inflation, business uncertainty and general pecuniary loss to every producer.

"I submit to the business men of this country, whose sentiment can always control a nominating convention, that they would better do some thinking between now and the 10th of June on other subjects than the silly twaddle of newspapers about 'buses' and 'bosa' rule."

Ex-Senator Platt gave out the above statement at the Fifth Avenue Hotel last night.

LAI A TRAP FOR MORTON.

Asked to Give His Financial Views, the Governor Referred to the State Convention Platform.

Albany, May 13.—The Executive Chamber was thrown into a flutter this evening by the receipt of the following query, sent by the editor of a McKinley organ in New York City:

"Will you kindly state for publication your views on the money question—whether you favor the issuance of silver, and if so, at what ratio, what conditions?"

The Governor consulted with his private secretary, Colonel Ashley W. Cole, who advised a prompt reply. He pointed out that any hesitancy on the Governor's part would be regarded as an evidence of fear to talk on the subject. After an hour's cogitation the Governor sent the following answer:

"Responding to your telegraphic inquiry of this date, I have only to say: Our last Republican State Convention declared the inclusion of New York State Republicans, including myself, on the money question, I stand on the New York platform."

The portion of the New York Republican platform Governor Morton refers to is: "The agitation for the free coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1 seriously disturbs all industrial interests and calls for a clear statement of the Republican party's attitude upon this question, to the end that the trade of this country at home and abroad may again be placed upon a sound and stable foundation. We recognize in the movement for the free coinage of silver an attempt to degrade the long established standard of our monetary system, and to have a money to public and private credit, at once costly to the National Government and commerce. Until there is a prospect of international agreement as to silver coinage, and while gold remains the standard of the United States and the civilized world, the Republican party of New York declares itself in favor of the firm and honorable maintenance of that standard."

Colonel Cole chuckled at the distributed copies of the Governor's reply. "That's the Governor's position," said he. "There's no dodging or double-shuffling about that. Will McKinley stand on the Ohio platform? Many persons in New York would like to know." The local McKinley agents were not dismayed. They declared the opportunity for an unequivocal statement was offered, and that instead of a frank statement from the Governor as to whether he favored a gold standard or free coinage, he replied indirectly by subscribing to the platform.

FILLEY WINS IN MISSOURI.

Route of the Kereas Faction at Prolonged Republican State Convention.

St. Joseph, Mo., May 13.—The Republican State Convention remained in session all night, adjourning at 4:30 o'clock this morning. It ended in the complete triumph of Chauncey I. Filley and the utter rout of R. C. Kereas, the opposing boss.

The Committee on Credentials seated the entire Filley delegations in the contested districts. The temporary organization was made permanent, and from that time the work was more pleasant, the Kereas faction laying down their arms. It was 1:25 o'clock a. m. when the first candidate for delegate to the National Convention was nominated in the person of Chauncey I. Filley, who was nominated by acclamation amid a perfect tumult. To add to the honor conferred upon him, he was also unanimously elected chairman of the State Central Committee.

At 3:30 this morning Major William Warner of Kansas City, was elected as the second delegate-at-large, defeating Mr. Nield-Pinchus of St. Louis. Mr. G. G. Veidingshaug, of St. Louis, was elected as the third delegate-at-large, defeating R. C. Kereas. Colonel Bittinger, of St. Joseph, withdrew his name and urged his friends to vote for Kereas, but they did not save that gentleman from defeat. On the third ballot John H. Bothwell, of Sedalia, was made the fourth delegate-at-large to St. Louis.

The following alternates-at-large were elected by acclamation: Louis Benke, Chariton; James T. Munroe, Leake; Leon Jordan, Jackson; John Farmer, St. Louis. The latter two are colored.

The last and crowning act of the convention, immediately before adjournment, was the passage of a motion instructing the delegates to the National Convention to elect Chauncey I. Filley a member of the National Committee.

MCKINLEY CAN BE BEATEN,

So Says Don M. Dickinson, and Adds That If He Is Named a "Creditor's Panic" Will Follow.

Ex-Postmaster-General Don M. Dickinson, of Michigan, who is at the Hoffman House, made some remarks about the political situation last night. "If," said he, "McKinley is nominated by the Republican Convention, and the Democrats name a sound-money candidate and adopt a good financial platform, McKinley will be defeated."

"There will be no repudiation by the Chicago Convention, and no dallying with repudiation. The silver men will have less than one-third of the delegates at Chicago, and the sound-money men will certainly be in control. The platform will declare for a tariff for revenue, which is the true Democratic doctrine."

"I expect to see a bolt in Chicago on the part of some of the silver delegates. They have made so much noise during the past few months that there will be nothing else for them to do if the Chicago Convention comes out for gold. The Republicans will, however, have more trouble with this question than the Democrats. It will be a shame for the Republicans to nominate McKinley, with his silver record. His nomination would precipitate a creditor's panic, which is the worst kind of a panic."

WYOMING NOW FALLS IN LINE.

To-day's State Convention Will Instruct Delegates to Vote for McKinley.

Cheyenne, Wyo., May 13.—The Republican State Convention for Wyoming, which will be held to-morrow, will elect a McKinley delegation to St. Louis, 96 out of the 102 delegates composing the convention having been instructed for McKinley.

Very conservative action upon the financial question will be taken by the convention, which will probably be content with instructing its St. Louis delegates to work for recognition of silver in the national platform. The convention will select Willis

Van De Venter, of this place, as National Committeeman for Wyoming to succeed ex-Senator Carey.

DELEGATES FOR MCKINLEY.

Four More District Conventions Instruct for the Ohio Man.

Weldon, N. C., May 13.—The Republicans of the Second North Carolina District to-day nominated George H. White (colored) for congress. B. L. Grant and John H. Hannan were elected delegates to the National Convention and were instructed to vote for McKinley.

St. Joseph, Mo., May 13.—The Republicans of the Fourth Congressional District met in convention here to-day and after a hot fight elected Major J. L. Bittinger, of St. Joseph, and John G. Grams, of Maryville, as district delegates to the National Republican Convention. The delegates were instructed for McKinley.

Octava, Kan., May 13.—The Republicans of the Second District yesterday nominated W. H. Brown and Grant Hornaday delegates to the St. Louis Convention. The delegates were instructed for McKinley.

Hill City, Kan., May 13.—Isaac Purcell and E. F. Osborn, of Osborn, County, were named as delegates to the St. Louis convention by the Sixth District Republicans here yesterday. They were instructed for McKinley.

SPAIN TO CANCEL TREATIES WITH US.

Continued from First Page.

ful avocation of a newspaper correspondent. You say there is no war in the island, that only a band of brigands is wandering about committing outrages. If that be so, by what right do you propose to try me before a military tribunal? You can, of course, assassinate me if you like, but you shall not try me."

Staggered the Officers.

"This staggered the court-martial. Instead of proceeding to try me and shoot me in the morning, as the President promised, they proceeded to discuss the question which I had raised."

"In the meantime the news of my arrest got to New York, and proceedings were delayed. I was sent to prison in Havana and then to Madrid."

When asked as to the difference between the seventy-three men of the Virginios who were shot at the time of his arrest and the men who are now under sentence, Mr. O'Kelly said:

"The difference is this. They had on board the Virginios General Ryan, the Irish Canadian, who organized the cavalry for the insurgents, and had fought a couple of years for them in the earlier part of the war. He was sent to America to organize further relief and was returning to his old comrades with arms and reinforcements. Of course that was distinctly a military expedition and not merely a contraband business. I don't know enough about the recent affair to say whether it was a military expedition or not, but, of course, there is a wide distinction between men setting out as actual combatants and men merely engaged in contraband trade."

Example of the Americans.

"You have an example in the American war. English ships often ran the blockade with arms and ammunition, but the American Government never thought of shooting any of the men who were captured. I don't know of any European war in which the Government has ordered that prisoners be shot for smuggling arms, and I am certain the American Government never did."

"Apart altogether from special treaties my view is that international law is quite sufficient to meet the present case, because either war exists in the country or it doesn't. If war exists then an exceptional condition of things exists; also the Government of the country has exceptional rights and the belligerents have rights also."

"When a government declares that a state of war exists it unquestionably has the right to use to the utmost its repressive powers against anybody that attacks them, but no government can be permitted to act toward a subject of a foreign power as if the country were both at war and at peace."

"That is the unfortunate position the Spaniards have taken. They want to have the advantage of being at peace and yet use the repressive measures that nothing would justify but a state of war."

"That is the position, which I should say from what I know of international law is absolutely unsound and indefensible. The object of my question in the House was to see that this case was taken out of the hands of the local men and transferred to the Central Government, which, I am perfectly certain, will never execute the prisoners."

Views of an Expert.

Sir Frederick Pollock, to whom Her Majesty's Government entrusted the task of compiling the Blue Book on Venezuela, and who is universally acknowledged as a great expert on foreign and international relations of England and the rest of the world, was to-night asked his views regarding the trouble between Spain and the United States over the Competitor affair. Sir Frederick said:

"Of course, unless I had all the facts before me, I could not give an opinion of value upon the subject. I do not know what treaties there may be between America and Spain, and don't know what the local law of Cuba may be."

"The fact is there does not seem to be much law there at all just now. These men, it seems, were not tried by local law, but by a military tribunal, and on the chance of I should imagine, proceed-

ings were irregular, and the American Government is perfectly justified in demanding an inquiry. It may be that in Cuba it is a crime punishable with death to be found in possession of arms intended to be used against the Government, and I don't know of any international law which could prevent the infliction of the penalty."

FOR CUBAN RECOGNITION.

Congress May Again Demand That the Island's Belligerency Be Proclaimed.

By Julius Chambers.

Washington, May 13.—If General Weyler persists in having the two Americans last arrested—Barnett and Leavitt—arraigned before a naval court, organized to convict, Congress will take a hand in the proceedings to save the lives of the "Butcher's" game. Senator Morgan, who has regained his health, maintaining that the belligerency of the Cubans should be recognized as the first and best step in the direction of saving Americans from the vindictive Weyler.

At a meeting of the Foreign Relations Committee to-day Senator Morgan urged immediate action upon a joint resolution of his to direct the President to proclaim the belligerent rights of the Cubans without any delay.

Senator Morgan fully explained his reasons for urging prompt action. He said that the resolution, in the form proposed, would, if adopted by both houses of Congress, require the President to extend the rights of belligerency to the Cubans immediately. He said the time had arrived when the United States Government should unequivocally declare its position. Senator Morgan, who has contended for the recognition of the Cubans with the earnestness of his nature, added to-day that aside from any consideration of the struggling Cubans the United States owe it to their own citizens to take such action as will protect them without the necessity of national humiliation through appealing to Spain for leniency toward Americans who fall into the hands of the vindictive Weyler.

The Senator presented the case of the condemned Americans as it would stand before the President, coupled with the request of Congress and recognized the belligerency of the Cubans in response to the concurrent resolution expressing the will of the Senate and the House.

Action Is Postponed.

The committee postponed further consideration of the resolution until next Wednesday, with the view of procuring accurate information in the meanwhile.

The sentiment, as expressed in the concurrent resolutions of Congress in behalf of the Cubans, is just as strong as when that action was taken. It has been dormant, but ready to assert itself at the proper time. The Competitor affair and the open threat of Weyler to summarily condemn Barnett and Leavitt to death, through a packed court-martial, have served to revive the feeling in Congress that the legislative department of the United States, the only power authorized by the Constitution to declare war, ought to compel Spain and her military henchlings like Weyler to respect this republic.

Secretary Olney still denies that he has received any official advice of the capture of Barnett and Leavitt, but this statement implies that the department has some reason for concealing the fact from the public or that the Consul-General at Havana has been remiss in his duty. The capture of these two men has been reported in the newspapers of this country and of England and Spain.

There is not the least doubt that the men are now held in irons by the orders of Weyler. Officials of the State Department admit that they are confident two Americans have been captured by Spanish guerrillas and that they are held under the charge of being connected with the Competitor.

Consul-General Williams has been cabled to send the department all the material facts with regard to the two men.

Olney as a Pacemaker.

Secretary Olney realizes that the war of the Spaniards, their insulting references to this Government and its people, and their threats against the "Yankees" are arousing a very positive war spirit among the sons of Uncle Sam. He is endeavoring to play the part of pacifier between the two countries. The Secretary has admonished Minister de Lome to exert his influence to repress the belligerency of the Spanish papers, and at the same time the Secretary is trying to suppress news that, if published in the papers of the United States, would inflame the people.

Senator Dupuy de Lome, though as vindictive against the Americans as Weyler, has seen enough of the temper, spirit and capacities of the United States to convince him that his blood-proud countrymen would encounter destruction should they rush into war with the great republic.

Archbishop Corrigan, assisted by a number of clergymen, administered the rite of confirmation to twenty-five pupils of the academy yesterday afternoon. The girls were dressed in white, wore flowers, and long white veils fell from their heads. The chapel was filled with friends and relatives of the young Christians.

CONFIRMATION IN THE CHAPEL OF THE ACADEMY OF THE SACRED HEART.

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VERY HARD SLAP AT CECIL RHODES.

Principals and Not Agents in Jameson's Raid Should Be Punished.

Merriman Calls It Scandalous That the Chief Conspirator Should Go Free.

All but Five of the Reformers in Jail at Pretoria Said to Have Been Liberated.

DR. LEYDS OPPOSED TO CLEMENCY.

He Believes All the Prisoners Should Suffer the Full Penalty of the Law.

Chamberlain Expostulates with Kruger.

Cape Town, May 12.—In the House of Assembly to-day Mr. Merriman, member of the Opposition, in presenting a motion for the revocation or alteration of the charter of the South Africa Company, said that it was scandalous that men like Gardner Williams, one of Rhodes's agents, should be prosecuted while the chief conspirator in the Jameson invasion was allowed to go free. The debate was adjourned till to-morrow.

The decision of the Executive Council in the case of the imprisoned reformers, it is believed, will be given to-morrow.

Dr. Leyds, State Secretary, in a message to the Governor, says that those who make light of the invasion and urge that clemency be shown the rebels do not know the harm they are doing to their cause.

The Cape papers accuse Leyds of wickedly making political capital out of the reformers' case, as he did with Jameson.

The chief organ of the Boers, the Pretoria Volksstem, urges that the Transvaal break all relations with England unless the latter takes prompt and decisive action regarding the charter of the South Africa Company.

Reformers Out of Jail.

London, May 13.—A report was current on the Stock Exchange to-day that all but the five leaders of the fifty-nine "reform prisoners" at Pretoria had been released, subject, however, to police supervision for three years.

Each of these men had been sentenced to imprisonment for two years and to pay a fine of £2,000. In the event of failure to pay the fine, each was to spend an additional year in prison and then to leave the country for three years.

The Times publishes this dispatch from Cape Town:

"Local feeling is so strong in Cecil Rhodes's favor that, if he were a candidate for election here, or in any British centre, he would head the poll."

A rumor that Mr. Chamberlain has sent

a cabled expostulation to President Kruger for not having announced the final sentence of the imprisoned reformers is reported in the Standard.

The wife of President Kruger, it is said, is dangerously ill.

BLESSED BY ARCHBISHOP.

Twenty-five Children of Prominent New York Catholics Confirmed at the Sacred Heart Academy.

With the beautiful ceremony of the Roman Catholic Church and with Archbishop Corrigan acting as celebrant, twenty-five children of the most prominent Catholic families in this city were confirmed yesterday in the chapel of the Academy of the Sacred Heart, No. 49 West Seventeenth street.

Father Connelly, secretary of the Archbishop, Father Powers, S. J., and Fathers O'Connor and Murphy, of St. Francis Xavier's Church, were the Archbishop's assistants. The girls were dressed in loose, white gowns, with long veils held in place by wreaths of white flowers. The boys were dressed in black, and on the arm of each was a knot of broad, white silk ribbon.

The Archbishop was attired in his robes of gold cloth and wore his mitre, and his crozier was borne before him. After kneeling in front of the altar he turned to the row of white-robed girls, and with extended hands made an invocation.

Then, after music and prayers, the girls and boys filed slowly before the Archbishop, received his blessing, and were anointed with the holy chrism by Fathers Powers and Connelly. After the ceremony of the elevation of the host the benediction was pronounced, and all was over.

The names of those confirmed are: Rosa Kernan, daughter of John Kernan, of Brooklyn; Annabel Chapman, daughter of Elverson Chapman; Mary Treanor, daughter of ex-Senator Treanor; Rose and Mary Hernandez; Anna Duvalier, Emma and Edna Skelly. Of the boys there were Robert and Herbert Kernan, sons of John Kernan; Elverson Chapman, Jr., F. Palmer, D. Cary, Charles and Harry Beales, sons of Mrs. James Beales and grandsons of Eugene Kelly; Harry Alexanders and M. Sterbrugge.

TO FIGHT THE EMPEROR

Freisinnige Party Will Insist on a Two-Year Clause in the New German Army Bill.

By Henry W. Fischer.

Berlin, May 13.—The Freisinnige party decided to-night to propose an amendment to the bill for the new formation of the Fifth Battalion, making its acceptance dependent upon two years' army service for all future enlistments.

The two-year clause now in force holds good only until 1898.

I have been informed that the other parties in the Reichstag will support this amendment.

Black Diamond Express.

Handsome train in the world. Beginning May 13, the Lehigh Valley Railroad will inaugurate a new fast limited train service between New York and Buffalo. Leaving New York, daily except Sunday, at 12 noon, arriving at Buffalo at 10 p. m. Service and equipment strictly first class. Meals a la carte. Baggage checked to and from hotels and residences. Take Central or DeWitt Street Ferry.—Advt.

TWO FORGER KINGS IN THE LAW'S GRASP.

Continued from First Page.

were to be raised by Becker, the "artist." After the drafts had been raised he would turn them over to one of the "presenters," Seaver or McCluskey.

Under the assumed name of A. H. Dean, Seaver rented an office in a prominent business building in San Francisco on December 6, 1895. He pretended to be a merchant, and opened an account at the Nevada Bank, depositing \$2,500 in cash and saying that his account would vary from that amount to \$30,000. He manipulated the account in such a way as to inspire confidence. On December 17 he deposited a draft for \$22,000. This draft had been drawn to his order by the Bank of Woodland, Cal., on the Crocker-Woolworth Bank of San Francisco. The amount was placed to Dean's account and the draft sent through the clearing house to the Crocker-Woolworth Bank, where it was paid without question.

On March 22, 1896, the next day Dean drove to the bank in a buggy, taking his office boy with him. He drew his own check for \$20,000, received that amount in gold in five bags—put it in the buggy, and drove away. When the Crocker-Woolworth Bank made its returns to the Woodland Bank at the end of the month, it was discovered that the \$22,000 draft was one that had originally been issued for \$12.

This case, as had several previous ones, was at once put into the hands of the Pinkertons by the American Bankers' Association, which retains the detective agency to protect its members against such swindlers. Becker and the members of his gang were already known to the detectives, and within a few weeks the four forgers were traced to St. Paul, where they were preparing to swindle two banks in which Seaver had already opened accounts. Seaver and McCluskey were arrested and taken back to San Francisco. The detectives had no evidence against Becker and Cregan on which an arrest could be made, but when those worthies left St. Paul for the East they were shadowed closely.

Chief Detective Lees, of San Francisco, induced Seaver to make a confession, in which he implicated Becker and Cregan. No evidence could be secured against McCluskey, and he was discharged. With Seaver's confession and other evidence, Chief Lees had Becker and Cregan indicted by the San Francisco Grand Jury. The indictment was found a week ago, and the fact was at once reported to the Pinkerton detectives, who were watching Becker and Cregan.

Becker was living with his wife at No. 67 Bradford avenue, Brooklyn, where he has resided for several years. Cregan was living at the Park Hotel, in Newark, having gone there three weeks ago. The men had been arrested in Philadelphia on April 20 as suspicious characters, but were turned loose for lack of evidence. The Pinkerton detectives made no effort to have them held because they had no evidence against them, and the San Francisco indictment had not yet been found.

After the news of the indictment reached here the detectives set a closer watch on Becker and Cregan, with the hope of catching them together. Their first meeting within a week was at the Park Hotel, Newark, at 10 o'clock yesterday morning. Detectives J. J. Fallon, Lardell and Muenster, of the Pinkerton agency, were watching the men when they met. After talking for a few minutes in the hotel office, Becker and Cregan went out of the hotel and walked down the street. At the junction of Market and Broad streets Detective Fallon, who was a little way behind them, accosted Policeman Loftus and asked him to arrest the men, and, going between them, caught each of them by an arm and told them they were under arrest. Becker made no resistance, but Cregan tried to get away, protesting that he was a gentleman and that his arrest was an outrage.

With the assistance of the detectives, the prisoners were taken to Police Headquarters and searched. Cregan had \$2,345 in his clothes. A \$1,000 bill was sewed inside his waistcoat, and twelve \$100 bills were found sewed inside his trousers and coat. The rest of the money was in small bills in his pocket. Becker had \$225 in small bills in his pocket. When the big bills were found in Cregan's clothes Becker coolly remarked:

"There goes the bundle."

Cregan had in one of his pockets an affidavit made by Becker, setting forth that he had nothing to do with the Nevada Bank swindle, and had never had the \$12 or \$22,000 draft in his possession. No other papers were found on them. They were arraigned before Justice Mott, and held in \$15,000 bail each for examination on May 20. Neither of the prisoners would talk. Ex-Senator M. T. Barrett, who appeared as their counsel, said that they denied that they were the men wanted in San Francisco.

Charles Becker is a forger with an international reputation. He is mentioned in ex-Chief of Police Byrne's book along with Henry Wade Wilkes, Joe Chapman, Ivan Stoeckich, Philip Hargreaves, William Griggs, John Carr, Al Wilson, Cleary, Elliott and Steve Raymond, with all of whom he has worked. He is an expert penman and an adept at erasing and rewriting the amounts on checks. He is said to be the inventor of a preparation of pulp with which he fills up the punched figures in checks and drafts, and, after ironing them, punches new figures.

Becker's aliases are Blosh, Bader, Howard and a dozen others. He first came into notoriety as an expert forger about 1870, when he associated with Wilkes, Ed Hall and Ira Garsides. In 1872 he helped Joe Chapman and others rob the Third National Bank of Baltimore, and, with his accomplices, fled to Europe, where the money was squandered. In Europe Becker educated the members of the gang in the arts of forgery, and they swindled many bankers in London, Paris, Hamburg, Berlin and Constantinople. They were arrested in Smyrna, Turkey, and sentenced to three years imprisonment in the English prison at Constantinople.

All except Chapman escaped and went to England to get money from Chapman's wife, who had acted as treasurer for them. She refused to give up any of the money until her husband was released, and some of the members plotted to drug and rob her. The drug killed her, and they fled to this country without having received the money.

Becker's next operation was to swindle the Union Trust Company, of this city, out of \$64,000 by means of a forged check purporting to have been drawn by President Boers, of the New York Life Insurance Company. He secured the assistance of a clerk in the insurance office named Pontis, who gave him a blank check and furnished information. Becker and the others in the

scheme were arrested, but Becker escaped by turning State's evidence.

He was arrested soon afterward by Inspector Byrne for forging a scrip of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, and sent to prison for several years.

Soon after his release he was convicted of forgery in Brooklyn, and sent to the penitentiary for six years. He was discharged about five years ago.

Cregan, Seaver and McCluskey are all comparatively new to the forgery business, and none of them were ever in any big forgery schemes until they fell in with Becker.

WIDOW PHELPS NOT TO BE BROWBEATEN.

Continued from First Page.

principle. In fact, he acknowledged himself to be a self-constituted champion of his cause, and asserted that in clearing damages in the sum of \$6,000 he was not looking for a healing lotion to his wounded heart, but was actuated by a desire to teach Mrs. Phelps in particular, and the entire sisterhood of widows in general, that they cannot put a man to extraordinary expense by a promise of marriage with impunity.

To say that the suit of Hayes against Phelps, which is now placed upon the Superior Court docket, has created a sensation in Bridgeport and Monroe, is like trying to depict a battle scene with white paint. The two towns, especially Monroe, have gone mad, because George Hayes was the most eligible part in Monroe, although his eligibility is somewhat marred in the eyes of maidenhood by the fact that he is a widower of some eight years standing. But he is rich for Monroe, and is only forty-five years old, with but one incombustible, a boy of fourteen years.

The widow was a stranger in Monroe until a year ago, when, to get away from the sorrowful memories which clustered about her Vermont home, where her husband was buried, she journeyed to Monroe to visit her uncle, Deacon Keeler. It was there she met George Hayes, an ex-Town Clerk, an ex-member of the Legislature and an ex-serious other political offices, and he fell in love. The widow admits, somewhat shamefacedly, that she had learned to love him before the bloom was off the apple trees, but in the midst of her new happiness she found it necessary to return to her Summer home at South Hero, Vt., which is on the shores of Lake Champlain, about seventeen miles north of Burlington. Before returning, however, she pledged her troth to George, and they entered into a compact whereby George was to remain away from Vermont, as a sort of test to his affection, but, if his heart was true, it was agreed that he should meet her at Albany in September, make her his wife and take her to Bonnybrook, his home at Monroe.

According to the widow, George did not abide by the agreement. On the contrary, she had been at Lake Champlain only a few weeks when he suddenly appeared at the villa door and remained at Lake Champlain a fortnight. After his departure, the promise of a meeting and a wedding at Albany was renewed, and through the long Summer months Mrs. Phelps looked forward to her marriage. Finally, during the last week of September she sent her fiancé a telegram arranging a meeting, but when she reached Albany the bridegroom had come not. There her love turned to indifference.

"From indifference I came to almost hate him," she said this evening, "because he deliberately deceived me. He said that he never chewed, drank or smoked, and once I smelled his breath distinctly and its odor was of older brandy, and if he didn't chew I'd like to know how it happened that a plug of tobacco fell to the ground one day when he pulled a handkerchief from his pocket; and, what is more, I don't see the sense in a man carrying cigars around in his vest to give to his friends, do you?"

"Oh, my position is secure. Last December we were friendly, you understand, although there wasn't any love business. When he asked me what I wanted for Christmas I made him promise to give me anything I asked for, so I asked for a written paper from his releasing me from our engagement."

"Here it is," exclaimed the widow triumphantly, taking from her purse a crumpled piece of foolscap worded as follows:

Bridgeport, December 23, 1895.
By request, I, George W. Hayes, of Monroe, Vermont, do hereby release Doris Phelps, of South Hero, Vt., from all matrimonial engagements now existing between us.
DORIS PHELPS HAYES.

"What do you think of that?" cried the widow in ringing tones. "What would a jury say to that? Why,